

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. ( Canceled)

2. (Currently amended)        A seatbelt retractor comprising a frictional clutching means equipped in a drum, according to claim 1, said clutching means acting between the drum and a drum shaft rotatable within the drum to reduce rotating speed of the drum shaft, to which a webbing and spiral spring are fixed, in response to expansion of said spiral spring during retraction of the webbing, and wherein the frictional clutching means comprises:

        a first rod member ~~slideable~~ slidably inserted into a guide element so that the first rod member can slide through said guide element in accordance with expansion of ~~a~~ of the spiral spring, the first rod member being provided with a guide slot at the center thereof;

        a restoring spring installed at one end of said first rod member for elastically supporting said first rod member;

        a gear member pivotally fixed to a drum by a pivot shaft and ~~slideable~~ slidably connected to said guide slot by a guide pin; and,

        a second rod member that ~~slideable~~ slidably moves engaging with tooth of said gear member.

3. (Original)    A seatbelt retractor according to claim 2, wherein the second rod member has a semicircular recess at one end thereof for contact with a circumference of the drum shaft.

4. (Original)    A seatbelt retractor according to claim 3, wherein the second rod member is composed of two parts that are elastically supported with each other by a spring.

5. (Original)    A seatbelt retractor according to claim 2, wherein the second rod member is composed of two parts that are elastically supported with each other by a spring.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended)        ~~The seatbelt retractor of claim 6,~~ A seatbelt retractor, comprising:

a drum containing a rotatable drum shaft and a spiral spring acting between the drum and shaft, said shaft configured and dimensioned for winding a seatbelt webbing thereon; and

a frictional clutch operatively connected to said spiral spring and acting on said drum shaft in response to an increase in diameter of the spiral spring, wherein said frictional clutch comprises:

an actuator rod slidably mounted with the drum and bearing ~~against~~ against the spiral spring;

a friction rod bearing against the drum shaft;

a linkage operatively connecting the actuator rod and friction rod so as to apply pressure to the drum shaft in response to expansion of the spiral spring.

8. (Original) The seatbelt retractor of claim 7, further comprising a biasing element acting on said actuator rod to bias it against the spiral spring.

9. (Original) The seatbelt retractor of claim 7, wherein said linkage comprises:

a gear segment pivotably mounted between said rods;

a first end of said gear segment being acted on by said actuator rod; and

a second, geared end of said gear segment being engaged with gear teeth formed on said friction rod.

10. (Original) The seatbelt retractor of claim 7 wherein said friction rod comprises a first part and a second part with a biasing element acting therebetween.